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**From:** Witt, Cheryl  
**Sent:** Friday, September 16, 2005 3:52 PM  
**To:** All District Managers ([managers-all@scc.wa.gov](mailto:managers-all@scc.wa.gov))  
**Cc:** ([all-staff@list.scc.wa.gov](mailto:all-staff@list.scc.wa.gov)); All Commissioners ([commission-members@list.scc.wa.gov](mailto:commission-members@list.scc.wa.gov))  
**Subject:** Livestock Grant Program -- Cost Share Distribution Method Authorized by Conservation Commission on September 15, 2005



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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**Date: September 16, 2005**  
**To: Conservation Districts**  
**From: Cheryl Witt, Grants Program Manager**  
**Re: Livestock Grants Program – Cost Share Distribution**

The WACD Livestock Committee met several times over the last few months to discuss in great length the distribution of funding for the next biennium related to cost-share distribution to districts. The committee developed three priorities based on the original legislative request and incorporated them into the recommendation presented to and authorized by the Conservation Commission at their September 15, 2005 regular business meeting.

Industry groups will be informed of the available funding, and be advised that they have until July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2006 to get to the districts and apply for assistance. There is some concern with the committee if there is not a deadline set, the funds will not be spent in a timely manner to meet the end of the biennium.

**Conservation Commission-Authorized Cost Share Distribution**  
**Methodology:**

- ◆ Cost Share funding will be amended into existing Conservation District Livestock Grants on a "first-come, first-served" basis according to operator-signed and district approved [Cost Share Application & Agreements](#) submitted to the Conservation Commission.
- ◆ Priority will go to those producers of production agriculture or commercial facilities. District boards will approve producer cost share applications based on knowledge that the facility is indeed a commercial facility. The District board must establish criteria (see examples below), then evaluate producers using the criteria. A copy of the criteria adopted by the board must accompany the first Cost Share application submitted to the Commission.

Examples of criteria:

Document that the planner or board has seen or verified that:

- The producer files a Schedule F for tax purposes.
- The planner or board can verify the facility is designated as Open Space Ag
- The planner or board can document that the farm is viewed by the community as a commercial facility.

- ◆ Cost Share will only be set aside for the following types of operations until July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2006. That means planning must be done, and cost share application & agreements need to be received at the Commission by close of business July 31, 2006. Additionally, these projects must be implemented by October 31, 2006.

- #1 Known CAFOs needing assistance (AFOs by EPA regulation definition that have runoff reaching surface water). These are animal feeding operations that have been designated as a CAFO, which means that there has been a documented discharge of manure &/or wastewater from the operation to a surface waterway. Typically, these types of operations would be dairy operations and feed lots.
- #2 Keeping AFOs from becoming CAFOs. These are animal feeding operations that have a high potential to become a CAFO or a high potential to cause a discharge of manure &/or wastewater into a waterway. Again, this is typically a dairy operation or a feed lot, but could also be a stable.
- #3 Other livestock operations with compliance orders or complaints/referrals to districts. These are landowners who have been given a Notice of Correction or a Notice of Violation from a regulatory agency, such as, DOE or a County. One example is a predominantly pasture-based beef operation which allows the grazing animals to have unlimited access to a salmon-bearing stream. County Planning & Development Services contacted the landowners and informed them that they are not in compliance with the County's Critical Areas Ordinance and that they were required to contact the Conservation District to obtain a conservation plan to address all of the natural resource issues.

- ◆ Subject to Conservation Commission approval, after July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2006 monies that are not earmarked for production agriculture or commercial projects will be opened up to all other livestock operations. This could include non-commercial agriculture OR pasture-based operations with water quality issues. However, these projects will be prioritized based on self-assessment tool information at each district.
- ◆ Funding caps to be used for all operations: Producers are eligible for up to 75% cost share from these funds, and the remaining 25% may come from any other source including but not limited to state, federal, or other grant opportunities. District boards may choose to limit their own producers to less than 75% OR use other existing funds to cover cost-share in an effort to limit the use of these funds. The expectation is that this can possibly extend these dollars to those in greater need.

Cost Share Priorities	Maximum Cost Share Amount
AFO / CAFO	\$10,000

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Producers that must have a permit due to CAFO regulations</li> <li>– Non-dairy with potential to be designated</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Implement Dairy NMPs updated to meet new CAFO regulations</li> </ul>	\$10,000
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Feedlots for runoff management</li> </ul>	\$10,000
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– AFO/CAFO - Poultry</li> </ul>	\$25,000